

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 102

By Jones S

A RESOLUTION to urge the United States Congress to
reauthorize the State Children's Health
Insurance Program (SCHIP) in a timely manner.

WHEREAS, the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee regards the health of our children to be of paramount importance to families in our State; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee regards poor child health as a threat to the educational achievement, social, and psychological well-being of the children of our State; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee considers protecting the health of our children to be essential to the well-being of our youngest citizens and the quality of life in our State; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly considers Tennessee's SCHIP program, CoverKids, which was recently established and opened to enrollment, to be an integral part of the arrangements for health benefits for the children of the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly recognizes the value of CoverKids in preserving child wellness, preventing and treating childhood disease, improving health outcomes, and reducing overall health costs; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee considers the federal funding available for CoverKids to be indispensable to providing health benefits for children of modest means; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that this General Assembly urges the members of Tennessee's delegation to the United States Congress to ensure that the Congress timely reauthorizes the State Children's

Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) to assure federal funding for Tennessee's SCHIP program, CoverKids.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this body urges the Governor to use his best efforts to work with the Tennessee delegation to ensure that SCHIP is reauthorized in a timely manner.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this body proclaims that all components of state government should work together with educators, health care providers, social workers, and parents to ensure that all available public and private assistance for providing health benefits to uninsured children in this State be used to the maximum extent possible.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we hereby urge the Governor to use his best efforts to provide meaningful assistance to help identify and enroll children who qualify for Medicaid or CoverKids.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives be directed to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to each member of Tennessee's Congressional delegation.